MONTEREY NEWS

December 2017
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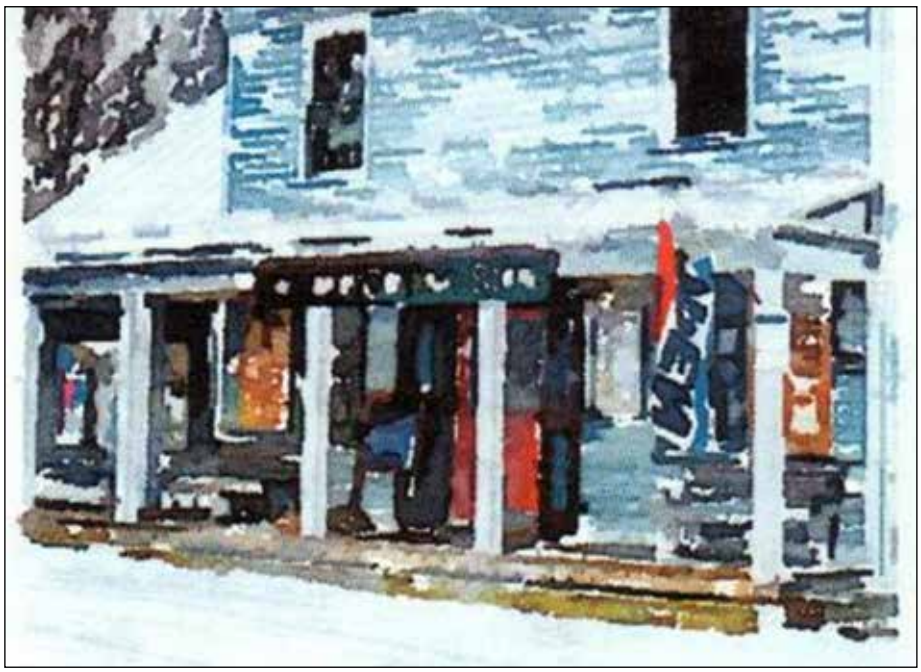
Pick up copies at: the general store, library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season)



A new chapter for the Monterey General Store. Painting by owner Scott Cole.

Times are changing. Word is that the Monterey General Store will soon be under new ownership.
Monterey General Store page 11

China and Monterey, soul sisters, more alike than different. Really?
China and Monterey page 21

The early Puritans in Massachusetts regarded Christmas as a "false" celebration of the birth of Jesus, with stronger ties to paganism than to Christianity.
Penalty for Keeping Christmas page 29

Winter's Coming page 15

For Veterans Day I read a poem entitled *In Flanders Fields*. But it struck me as odd that I really knew nothing about Flanders.
Monterey Veterans Day page 12

Whether you ever find yourself in church otherwise, please consider finding yourself in church then. Sunday, December 24, at 7 p.m.
From the Meetinghouse page 14

Lake Garfield Working Group reports that fifty-nine people completed their lake health survey—approximately 7% of the population.
Health of Lake Garfield page 19

Two new, ongoing events at the community center. Both Town Yarners and Dancercize begin on Thursday, December 7. Holiday cookie swap on Saturday, December 9.
Community Center News page 9

In the following pages are three lengthy articles about the effort to select an internet service provider (ISP).
Broadband Network pages 3–6

Select board member Carol Edelman has had to recuse herself from any discussion or decisons regarding broadband issues.
Recusal page 7

Select board member Steven Weisz has recently resigned from the broadband committee.
Resignation page 7

Police chief Gareth Backhause lists various points of contact for emergency situations.
Emergency Contacts page 8

The December 20 community potluck supper features biologist Henry Bouchard from US Fish and Wildlife service.
Community Potluck page 9

There is no ascent without a peak.
Fog-ringed, frozen, forested, forgotten,
Surmount page 10

Island relief efforts continue for the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
Virgin Island & Puerto Rico Help page 10

My job in California, that day I talked to Sprite, was to think about what a pond is for.
A Pond: What's It For? page 18

Wildlife Holding Still page 26

Adapting to Climate Change
Town Preparedness Grant

With the warming of planet Earth on a global scale, most scientists and an increasingly significant majority of the public agree that climate change is real and steps should be taken to mitigate such effects as flooding from more frequent and intensive storms.The Town of Monterey agreed and was recently selected to receive state funding to help the town adapt to the effects of climate change on a local basis.

During the spring of this year, the Monterey Select Board approved the submission of an application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs under a new statewide program entitled the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. Monterey, among only four towns in Berkshire County and seventy-one communities state-wide, was selected to receive $15,000 as a result of its successful grant application.

This state-led partnership with local governments is designed to help build resilience to climate change through technical support, planning tools, and resources. As part of the MVP grant program, "Municipalities will work through a community-based workshop process to identify key climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and strengths, develop adaptation actions and prioritize next steps. Results of the workshops and planning efforts will be used to inform local plans, grant applications, budgets, and policies. One area of focus will be using the process to update local hazard mitigation plans."

As part of the planning process, Monterey will retain the state-certified Berkshire Regional Planning Commission whose representatives will provide technical assistance during several public workshops and attendance at monthly meetings with a core project team of town staff and volunteers including the police, highway, fire and building departments, along with the conservation, parks and recreation commissions and the boards of planning and health. Finally, the town will complete the planning process and develop the MVP plan by mid-June 2018.

Periodic updates will be published in the *Monterey News* to inform the public during the planning process. More to come.

—Dennis Lynch
Monterey Grant Writer

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Library News

Holidays schedule

The schedule for the library during the holidays is simple—the library will be closed on Christmas day and also on New Year's day. We will be open on all the other regularly scheduled hours. Interlibrary loan delivery will also be cancelled on those days, so if you are expecting a book that day it should be in on the following Wednesday.

The Building Project.

Our fundraising thermometer is high enough we hope to stay out of the snow, but we'd like to make sure, so please keep your contributions coming. We're so happy that the design team is hard at work as you read this, making the plans final and applying for permits. We've already had two, and maybe by the time you read this, three meetings. You will see us applying for all the building permits that are required for construction of this magnitude. We are working on making the project energy-efficient and are applying for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

One of the common questions is—will the library be open during construction? Even though the original part of the building is going to be reused, it will undergo a complete renovation, so we won't be able to use it. We will be open in a temporary location. We are working on a plan to satisfy the Board of Library Commissioners so that we can provide all the services we have been providing. We may not have all of our books in the temporary location but we will have access to CWMARS and delivery so fear not, you will be able to borrow everything you normally would.

Another question is—what will the money the Friends of the Library raises be used for? There are some things that the state will not cover, including furniture, landscaping, and parking. We can use town money for those areas. The state had suggested that we raise some private money to help with those areas as well as with the project as a whole. We are fortunate that we got off to such a great start because we are using our money on hand to pay for the design and permitting work while we wait for other funds to come through. This means we will be building as soon as we can and hopefully avoiding material and labor costs escalation from the original estimate. Of course all the private money the Friends raise will help keep the project within the scope of what we pledged to the town meeting.

Stay tuned for further updates on the process. There is a lot of thought going into the decisions and even more work behind the scenes to make this successful. Our meetings are public, so check out the calendar on the Monterey Library website and bring your input for the future of the library.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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A Broadband Network for Monterey

In the following pages are three lengthy articles about the effort to select an internet service provider (ISP) to build and operate a high-speed broadband network in Monterey. The *Monterey News* has been publishing articles of this nature for years now, beginning with the startup of Wired West. Clearly, this has been and continues to be a difficult process for everyone involved. There are a great many considerations and few spots where the options can be directly compared (for example, the apples-to-oranges conundrum with Charter Spectrum [CS] and Fiber Connect [FC]). Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has $1.1 million ear-marked for supporting the construction of a Monterey broadband network. Working to satisfy MBI's requirements to access this money is also principle factor in the struggle to develop a solution.

Below is a bullet-points listing of the key information in each of the following three articles. The first is the monthly report from the town-appointed broadband committee consisting of Cliff Weiss, Kenn Basler, Bill Johnson, and Larry Klein. The second and third are opinion pieces by select board members Steven Weisz and Kenn Basler.

Please take the time to read the articles themselves. I hope this summary, as long as it is, helps the readers to connect the various viewpoints and issues that bear on the process. We should all be very grateful to the people who have worked, and are continuing to work, towards this end.

—Stephen Moore, Editor

Broadband Committee Report

- MBI underestimated the make-ready costs for western MA towns.
- Frontier Communications would require a $350,000 per year agreement with Monterey, for a fifteen-year period, to sign a contract. ($5.25 million total)
- CS would also require a fifteen-year franchise agreement.
- FC will privately build a network to reach 70% of the homes.
- FC would not provide content, therefore no long-term agreement required. *(Note: The other two companies rely on sales of content packages.)*
- A discussion of the potential impact to a loss of net neutrality rules by the FCC, especially as it relates to ISPs that also distribute content.
- A discussion of the "two network" option.
- A listing of the committee's considerations in forming a recommendation.

Steven Weisz: Two Networks

- Argument for the "two network" option.
- FC is a new company.
- FC has a high connection fee, and is "expensive."
- FC requires an initial three-year contract. *(Note: After that period, subscription would be on a month-to-month basis.)*
- FC does not provide television.
- FC is wiring a town network, and is serving customers.
- CS offers broadband to most of the state.
- CS faster than DSL, slower than FC speeds.
- CS no contract, low connection fee.
- CS multiple tiers of service inc. television
- CS low-income subscription available.

Kenn Balser: Media Headlines Impact Monterey's Considerations

- Cable content providers are steadily losing customer base.
- Streaming services are expanding into new markets.
- Broadband community going through major changes.
- Content providers sticking with content packages and raising fees.
- Some current solutions are sufficient for now. Tomorrow is where the difficulty starts.
- Depth of communications business experience on the committee.
- MBI trying to force a Monterey solution.
- FC is building a 70% coverage network. The broadband committee is focused on how to reach the 30%.
- CS's proposal would provide speeds only comparable to their coaxial cable based system in Great Barrington.
- CS's business is experiencing dramatic change, and has a history of poor customer service.
- In light of CS's current business, entering a fifteen-year contract seems questionable.
- Monterey and Egremont are sharing insights and strategy.

Information or Questions Not Addressed or Compared in These Articles:

- The specific cost of a fifteen-year agreement with Charter Spectrum. (Frontier agreement to cost $5.25 million.)
- Specific cost estimate to finance the remaining 30% of the network. (How would this compare to the cost of a fifteen-year agreement?)
- MBI's $1.1 million fund could, by insisting on content-providing companies such as CS or Frontier, cost the town many millions in long-term agreement fees. How much less expensive would it be for the town in the long run to directly finance completion of FC's network, and a low-income subscription rate, than to meet MBI's conditions?
- If the town invested in FC's network, would it hold equity that might be recouped should the company sell, or receive a share in operating profits?
- CS subscription fees—tiered subscription fees and bundled content packages; FC subscription cost (no content packages).

Transfer Station Winter Hours

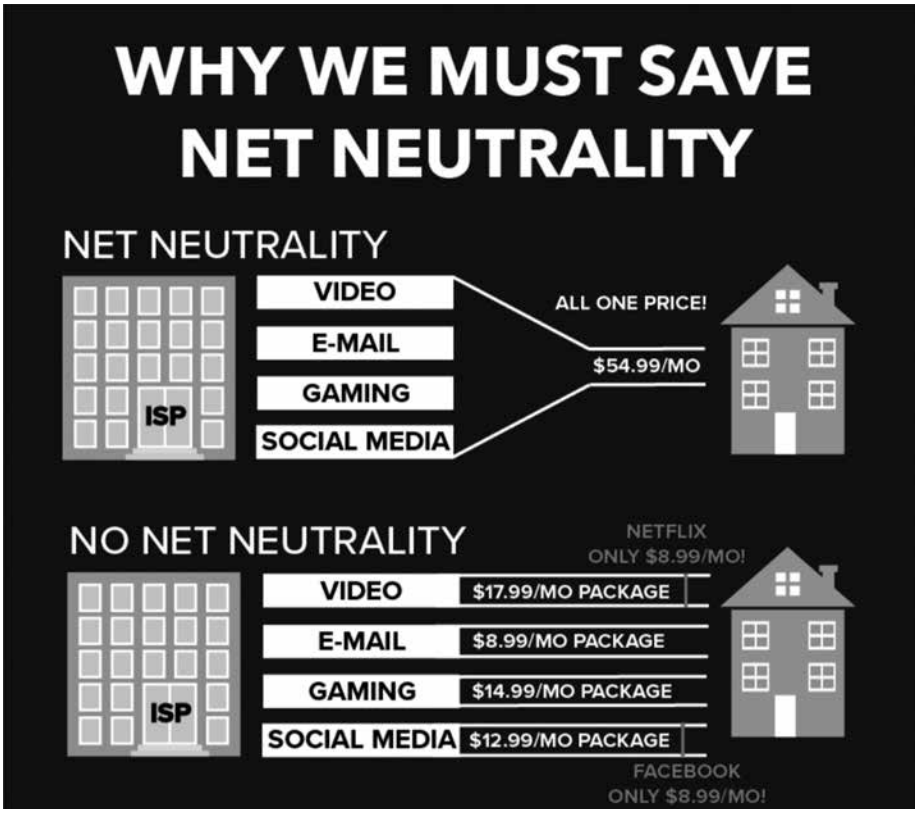
Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Monterey Broadband Update
This Should Have Been Easier

We are still actively working towards deployment of high performance broadband in Monterey. As we have stated many times, there are several moving parts—Mass Broadband (MBI), various vendors, the needs of the town, and now the potential impact of the FCC's upcoming vote which likely will dismantle rules enforcing net neutrality.

MA Broadband Institute

Regarding MBI, they appear to be asking the state for $45 million in additional funds, according to a Larry Parnass article in the *Berkshire Eagle*. The article implies that MBI underestimated the cost of preliminary make-ready costs. The broadband committee realized this a year ago when we first reviewed proposals from various providers and found some of the cost proposals to be excessive.



RoKahanna

What this graphic is telling us is that with net neutrality you pay one price for your connection, and there would be no additional charge to access any websites. Without net neutrality, your ISP could charge you separate fees for each feature, plus an additional fee to access Netflix (in addition to your Netflix subscription) or Facebook, which you do not now have to pay for.

Vendors

Frontier: As far as vendors, the committee rejected the proposal from Frontier as this would have committed the town for roughly $35.00 per house per year passed by Frontier's fiber-based deployment for fifteen years...not including user subscriber fees. This proposal required the town to come up with $350,000 per year, equaling $5.3 million over 15 years. This was referred to as a "friendship agreement."

Charter: In a letter, Charter has apparently modified their proposal to focus on a fiber deployment versus the initial traditional coaxial cable. We have yet to see the proposal and Charter has finally responded to a request (four or more sent by the town) and will seek a meeting. There is no date at this time, and Charter does not appear to be in any hurry to meet with us. Charter enjoys a positive relationship with MBI. Their proposal would require a fifteen-year commitment for the town via a Cable Franchise Agreement.

Fiber Connect: Fiber Connect, a privately funded start-up company, continues to deploy and connect subscribers in Monterey (and Egremont). Their business plan, being a private company, addresses those areas that are profitable to their business (close to 70% of the town). MBI issued an updated RFP to Fiber Connect at the behest of the Monterey Broadband Committee as they were initially (along with several other small companies) rejected due to the lack of history. Fiber Connect is requesting the MBI grant allocation to address deployment in the remaining 30% of the town. The submittal deadline for their response to MBI was last week. Fiber Connect does not provide content and therefore is exempt from the fifteen year Cable Franchise Agreement.

Net Neutrality

The change proposed for net neutrality policy has the potential for significant impact now that the FCC has announced plans to dismantle the current regulation. (The FCC's formal vote on net neutrality is scheduled for December 12.) Net neutrality is the principle that internet service providers (ISPs) and governments regulating most of the internet must treat all data on the internet the same, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication. Without net neutrality, the (ISP) is allowed to charge you extra to reach certain websites, charge you to use search engines beyond what the provider offers (for example, Verizon owns Yahoo and could charge you extra if you use Google), block websites or services completely, and charge you extra to access streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, YouTube. They can also limit performance and speeds and implement quotas on sites and content wherever and whenever they want. The broadband committee would insist that a vendor adhere to net neutrality as part of any negotiation. That is in the best interest of the town.

The Two Network Option

There is an idea being expressed about allowing two networks in town and let subscribers decide for themselves. This works in municipalities with larger populations as users can flip-flop as soon as their commitment is over and take advantage of

promotional rates. In our case, MBI will offer the grant to only one provider thus requiring the other provider to build out on their own dime. If this is the case, then it is likely that the last 25-30% (the unprofitable areas) of the town would only have one choice of ISP, and not have the benefit of a two-network competitive solution, and this would create a digital divide within the town. The solutions as we know them today are vastly different in offerings, capabilities, and in some of the costs. To poorly paraphrase a landmark court case, "separate but unequal is inherently unequal."

The broadband committee is responsible for submitting a recommendation to the select board for their consideration. The recommendation takes into account several items including but not limited to, and in no particular order, the following:

- What is the cost to the town?
- What are the costs to the subscribers?
- What services are offered?
- Is the technology current, future proof, or is it lacking?
- Does the deployment follow trends in the industry?
- Would the town be locked in, and for how many years?
- What leverage do we have to ensure the vendor selected stays up to date with services and capabilities?
- Is the business model forward thinking or does it rely on older, declining models of content distribution?
- Does the solution position Monterey in an advantageous position relative to other local towns, towns across the region, and/or nationally?
- Will the vendor support net neutrality in light of the President's and FCC's decision to eliminate it?

There are more, but this gives you an idea of the process.

At this point, there is only one vendor actually doing constructive work. They are by no means perfect relative to the needs of the town and as a private company, they are under no obligation to the town. The second vendor has yet to feel the town's sense of urgency. MBI is still trying to get its house in order. Comments and questions are gladly accepted via broadband@montereyma.gov

—Monterey Broadband Committee
Cliff Weiss, Kenn Basler,
Bill Johnson, Larry Klein

In My View
Broadband Possibilities

When it comes to the saga of broadband in Monterey, the question I get most is "Are you in favor of Fiber Connect or Charter." My answer is "both"

The mandate of anyone in public office is to provide the best services, to the greatest number of people, in every income and age range. In the case of broadband for Monterey, I assumed that between the state and town RFPs (Request for Proposals), one clear "winner" would appear. What I learned is that Monterey can be the beneficiary of two broadband systems—Fiber Connect and Charter Communications.

Each one has advantages and disadvantages.

Fiber Connect is a start-up. They have never operated a broadband network. Their service is fast, but expensive. They charge $999 to connect and require a three-year contract (so 'seasonal users' can't turn on and off). There are no published plans to offer discounted rates. They do not offer television. On the plus side, they are committed to wiring parts of the town as fast as possible, and have already begun hooking folks up in Monterey.

Charter Communications is a big company. They are operating broadband networks in most of the commonwealth. Their service may or may not be as fast as Fiber Connect's (they have recently announced an "all fiber network"), but still about thirty times faster than DSL. They charge as low as $49 to connect and require no contracts (so 'seasonal users' can turn the service on and off at will). They offer multiple tiers of service, and a discounted rate to low income subscribers, older folks on SSI, and those with children on NSLP (free/reduced lunch). They provide television. According to the company, they can be up and running in twelve-to-eighteen months.

The fact is, Monterey (like Egremont) can provide most residents access to both systems, giving us the option of either Fiber Connect or Charter.

So this is where, as a public official (and someone who has been working on a broadband solution for three years), I must say that the "winner" is a two-system approach for Monterey. Monterey residents could have more broadband options than most towns in Massachusetts.

We just need to say, "Yes."

—Steven Weisz
Select board member

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In My View
Media Headlines & Monterey

- Netflix Added 5.2 Million More Customers Last Quarter
- Will the 2017 NFL Season Put YouTube TV on the Map?
- CBS to Launch New Sports-Themed Streaming Service
- Another Million Consumers Cut the TV Cord Last Quarter
- YouTube TV Adds More Markets, Including Denver, Cleveland
- Broadcasters to Team Up on $20 Sports-Free Skinny Bundle
- Verizon Will Stop Throttling Video If You Pay Them $10 More

While the rate of "cord cutting" (customers leaving the cable media companies) during the second quarter wasn't quite as aggressively dire as many analysts predicted, the latest wave of TV subscribers lost by the traditional cable TV industry wasn't what you'd call *good* for the pay TV industry, either. Wall Street research firm MoffettNathanson predicts that once tallied, the sector lost about 1 million pay TV subscribers last quarter, with the losses hitting Dish Network, DirectTV, Charter, Frontier and AT&T particularly hard. These are all companies with triple-play packages that rely on the TV play for profit.

So—what does all this mean for Monterey's search for high speed internet?

To begin with—it's a warning. The broadband community is going through a major evolution. Customers are tired of paying an arm and a leg for bloated cable TV bundles and historically atrocious customer service, and despite a lot of lip service toward competing more seriously on channel flexibility and price, most cable operators continue to think that just raising rates anyway is the best path forward. Frontier Communications has just put into place major rate increases for their TV package which speaks directly to the increased cost for them to obtain content. Charter has the same content problem and steadily raises rates as content costs increase.

The Monterey Broadband Committee has reviewed proposals from six different providers over the past two years. As has been reported elsewhere in this issue we looked at each proposal in relationship to how it would meet Monterey's present and future needs. These needs are not just the ability of a customer to enjoy high-speed internet or the ease to watch a TV program, but the more important issue of future educational, business, town government, medical, security, and emergency service needs. Today is easy—tomorrow is where the difficulty starts.

Early on we determined that fiber was the only future-proof installation that made sense for Monterey, but that put us at odds with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. MBI needed to check off the box "Town Connected" rather than worry about tomorrow. As has been the case with most Monterey committees, the broadband committee has been fortunate to have members of the community who bring years of knowledge to the table—in this case, over one hundred years of work in the industry. By sharing their knowledge, other members of the committee gain insight and understanding into this complex and controversial world. I think that, to a person, each and every member of the committee feels that we have been through the wringer.

There is no current proposal that meets all the needs that Monterey will face tomorrow. Each has its short comings but worse—MBI has backed us into a corner by playing the "we know best" game. They hold the funds that Monterey needs to build out a network but have left us with only one choice—Charter Communications.

Fiber Connect seems to have made the decision that the state is asking too much of them to participate in the funding process. Their business plan is succeeding. They will pass 70% of the homes in Monterey and Egremont by next summer, and they feel confident that their sign-ups, based on the sign-ups to date, will make them profitable. If the monies from the state had gone to Fiber Connect, Monterey could have looked forward to a completed, town-wide, high-speed internet service in a year's time. For the broadband committee, it has always been about how to provide service to the final 30% of homes.

Charter has re-engineered their proposal to Monterey and now offer to provide fiber to the home, but still at only the same speed that their coaxial system in Great Barrington provides. They will also provide the triple-play experience. The real problems with all of this are the fifteen-year contract with the town that they are requiring, the control of the connection speed, and the historical problems they have had with customer service. If you read through the headlines at the top of this article, you should feel, as the broadband committee feels, that entering into long term contracts at a time the industry is experiencing such dramatic change would be questionable, but the town may not have a choice.

Charter has reached out to us and we will be meeting with them over the next few months. Our friends in Egremont have just conducted their first meeting with Charter. We are sharing insights and strategy and hope to work together. Even with the ups and downs, the committee is committed to bringing high-speed broadband to Monterey and will continue that quest. It is only by working together that we will get to the end of this drama.

—Kenn Basler
Select board member

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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Broadband Recusal and Resignation

As part of the effort to find a broadband solution for the town on the heels of the WiredWest proposal stalling, the town formed a committee with the mandate to investigate possible solutions, balance the incoming information and opportunities, and make a recommendation to the select board for the committee's view of the best solution.

Please also read the broadband committee report, Steve Weisz's and Kenn Basler's *In My View* columns, w on pages 4 through 6.

Recusal

As an unfortunate price to pay for living in a small town with limited employment opportunities, select board member Carol Edelman has had to recuse herself from any discussions or decisions with regards to broadband issues. Earlier this year, her adult daughter had taken a limited, part time job helping with office management with Fiber Connect. Edelman felt that the only ethical thing to do was to recuse herself. Her daughter is now working full time with the company, and so Edelman has remained recused.

The *Monterey News* asked her to explain the situation as it stands now, especially in light of someone filing an anonymous ethics complaint with the state ethics commission. This filing was done after her formal recusal. She has learned recently that the the commission is "satisfied that this matter does not require any further action" on their part.

"Having been subject to an investigation from the state ethics commission, and following discussions with the legal department and town counsel, I really need to be careful, to protect not only myself, but also the town. I have been advised very definitively to steer clear of the topic."

Her recusal on this topic means that there are only two of our three select board members who can accept the findings of the broadband committee, and make any necessary decisions on behalf of the town.

Resignation

Select board member Steve Weisz has recently resigned from the broadband committee, of which he was a founding member.

In response to a query about his resignation, Weisz wrote this:

"Committees in the Commonwealth must follow certain rules under Mass General Law. I believe, in their zeal to hone down to one provider, the broadband committee may have exceeded its boundaries. I resigned because I did not wish to be a party to that. Additionally, I am disturbed with (what I observe) is the distribution of inaccurate information. I have heard and read that Charter Communications is two to three year or three to four years away from wiring the town. That is simply untrue. Charter has always maintained a twelve-to-eighteen-month schedule. This schedule depends on the time it takes to obtain pole licenses and sign with the town."

— Stephen Moore

Easy Ridin' Papas Concert

December 9

On Saturday, December 9, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Meetinghouse, there will be a concert sponsored by the town and supported by the cultural council. The Easy Ridin' Papas musical influences stem primarily from the intersection at which northern jazz meets southern and country traditions, and their repertoire is a mix of early twentieth century American roots music: country blues, jazz and country standards, western swing, southern gospel, and jug band music, as well as a few originals in that same vein. The concert is free of charge.

The two-man band has Will Conklin on trumpet, cornet, ukulele, vocals, and whistling, and Adam Brown on parlor, archtop, and resonator guitars, as well as vocals. Will is a native to the Berkshires, having grown up in Sheffield, while Adam is a transplant who hails from the east Texas town of Texarkana and now resides in Sandisfield.

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Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
Proudly servicing our area for over 15 years.
413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

Emergency Contacts for Residents

A situation on Beartown Mountain Road recently occurred after losing power. The resident stated that they couldn't call out but still had internet service. It is likely that they had a phone that required electrical power. (Many people now have phones with remote handsets, which incorporate a variety of features such as recording messages, a phone number directory, caller identification, etc.) Chief Backhaus recommends that homes also have at least one older phone that simply plugs into a telephone jack. In simple local power outages, these phones, which are powered by the phone lines, will often still work, depending on what caused the loss of power.

Contacting Dispatch Service

Following up on the situation at Beartown Mountain Road, the chief spoke with the dispatch center and was given an email address that can be used when the landline phones are not working. If you still have an internet connection, or you still have cell phone service, this would be a way to alert someone via email in an emergency. The email address is dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us. Be sure to give your name and address, and the nature of your emergency. If you would like to call the dispatch center directly, this number is 413-236-0925.

Contact Monterey Police

To contact the Monterey Police Department for non-emergencies, call 528-3211. This number dials the police office first and then transfers the call to the dispatch center after three rings.

If you're near the town hall after hours and you need help, there is a grey emergency police phone box next to the front door. As soon as you pick up the phone, it will automatically dial 528-3211 as soon as you pick up the phone.

Also, many new cell phones can be set up to call through your WiFi network (which does require electrical power, and usually a phone line connection). Residents are advised to talk to their service providers about how to set that up.

And, of course, in a real emergency, 911 should always be used.

—Monterey Police Department

Note: See page 31 for a cut-out box listing these contacts.

Maureen Banner

The Knox Gallery enjoyed a great turnout on Friday, October 27, for the opening of Images of Our World*, with photographs by Sally Eagle and Dan Mead.*

Knox Gallery

Community Art—*Eclipsed*

We hope all will join us at the Knox Gallery on Friday, December 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., for the opening reception of our community exhibit, *Eclipsed*.

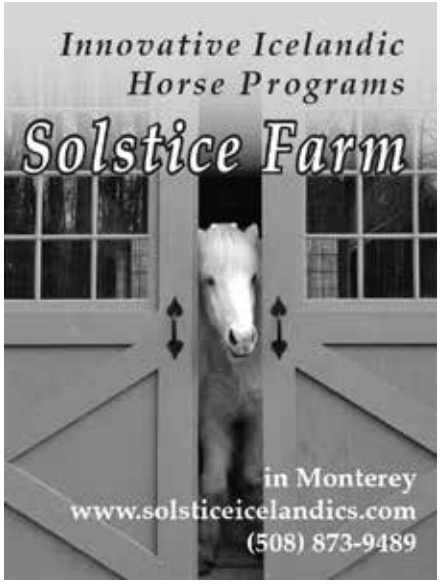
We look forward to spectacular images inspired by the 2017 solar eclipse or, less literally, by "eclipsed" referring to something blocked, hidden, upstaged, transcended, concealed, overshadowed or darkened. We look forward to a broad range of visual interpretations of this theme.

For those of you participating, don't forget, work must be hand-delivered to the library on Monday, December 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., or Tuesday, December 5, from 9 to noon. Work must be picked up at the library Saturday, January 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., or Tuesday, January 16, 9 to noon.

We thank the community for all the enthusiasm for the gallery, and thank our participating artists for all their efforts in putting together the exhibitions. With this exhibition, we also celebrate our fifty-seventh exhibition and our seventh birthday. For *Eclipsed*, we have asked that all artists submit work that is for sale, and well-priced. Artists are asked to donate 25% of the sale price to the Friends. This is a chance to take home a piece of original artwork and to support the gallery. The gallery is supported by the Friends of the Monterey Library, we hope you will return the favor and support the gallery.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, www.MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/ 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates



Maureen Banner

Community Center News

As we move into our first winter of operation, the community center welcomes your events, meetings, classes, etc.—just contact us well in advance to confirm about scheduling and any other arrangements. The Monterey Highway Department will be keeping the drive, parking areas, and walkway cleared of snow, so we will all have access to the center.

Two new ongoing events are starting up on Thursday, December 7. At 1 p.m. the first meeting of the Monterey Town Yarners will take place; this is a group for sharing ideas and projects in knitting, crocheting, and the like. Wendy Jensen will coordinate the meetings and the group. There is no cost to participate, no teacher to organize a curriculum, just interested fiber workers getting together. For starters we plan this as a once-a-month gathering, but it could become a more frequent get-together if participants wish.

Also on December 7, at 4 p.m., we'll see the first session of a zumba-type "dancercize" group led by Barbara Cohen, who has taught Zumba for years and has the music and the moves. This weekly session is also free of charge. Bring your sneakers and clothes you can move in. All are welcome.

Our friends at Hume New England are sponsoring and organizing a community holiday cookie swap to take place on Saturday, December 9. Please check the event calendar on our website for the schedule and details at ccmonterey.org.

—Joe Baker and Mary Makuc

Community Potluck Dec. 20

Henry Bouchard, Fish Hatchery

The November potluck was a great evening with local historian Carole Owens speaking about the remarkable women in her book during the war years of 1754 to 1787. She made a point about how these were not "feminists," a concept totally inconceivable at that time—just women trying to survive and care for their families. She mentioned afterwards that she sold four books, but only was paid for three. So, if someone neglected to pay her, please mail the payment to her at PO Box 1207, Stockbridge, MA 01262. She also said, "Great apple pie!" Steve and Sally Pullen—thank you.

For next month, we have Henry Bouchard, who is the manager and fish biologist of three national fish hatcheries operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Dept. of Interior). The hatcheries are the Berkshire NFH on River Road, Dwight D.Eisenhower NFH in North Chittenden, VT, and the White River NFH in Bethel, VT. He has been with the service for twenty-one years and been culturing fish twenty-eight years. He will speak on the Fish and Wildlife Service national programs, the National Fish Hatchery System, and the history and current activities at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.

Please join us on December 20th, at the Monterey Meetinghouse, at 6 p.m., for the next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

Aldeth Lewin

Arielle Lewin surveys the damage to her school after Hurricane Irma

US Virgin Island Relief
A Talk to Benefit Relief Efforts

Aldeth Lewin, daughter of Sally and Steve Pullen, will give a talk and slide show about relief and recovery efforts on the US Virgin Islands following the devastating impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Aldeth has lived on St. Thomas for over fourteen years working mostly as a journalist covering activities of the territorial government and other institutions. She has been interviewed by national media for a perspective on events in the territory.

A free-will offering will be taken to benefit relief efforts. Checks can be made to the "Community Foundation of the USVI." The foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, waives its administrative charges so that 100% of all donations go to support work of various organizations they have vetted. Aldeth will talk about these activities.

The talk will take place on Thursday, December 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of the Monterey Church. Anyone with questions or a desire to contribute if unable to attend can contact Steve and Sally Pullen at 528-9243.

—Steve Pullen

Puerto Rico Help
Thank You Monterey!

You might have heard this from Liz Goodman on Sunday, read it in our *Monterey News*, or you talked to a neighbor in town while getting your mail at the post office—the response of giving was incredible. Our community rallied to help so many families in need on the island of Puerto Rico.

Of the one 113 boxes that have been shipped thus far, twenty-five came from our extraordinarily generous town of Monterey. Muchas gracias, vecinos!

The rebuilding of Puerto Rico is going to take years and we are committed to continue our efforts in helping in the process. Anyone who would like to continue in the effort in providing food, essential supplies, and or help in the shipping costs please contact Mayra Rodriguez by email at rodriguez.mayra77@yahoo.com, or by mail at PO Box 342, Monterey, MA 01245

In gratitude,

—Mayra Rodriquez and
Wendy Benjamin

Wendy Benjamin

Postman Ed Nowobilski, postman at Monterey Post Office was really feeling part of the "adopt a box" relief effort for Puerto Rico.

Surmount

Key word being "mount":
There is no ascent without a peak.
Fog-ringed, frozen, forested,
forgotten,
All are mountains. All are
Removed from the rain, offered
To the sun. Do not diminish
Them, oh climber, trekker, walker—
Summits stand, and you top them.

—Joe Makuc

This poem, *Surmount*, was recently published in Z-Publishing House's *Pennsylvania's Best Emerging Poets* anthology.

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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Monterey General Store
Changes—Stay Tuned

Dennis Lynch

Times are changing. Word is that the Monterey General Store will soon be under new ownership according to the current proprietor, Scott Cole.

Scott took over the operation of the general store more than five years ago and made significant, inviting improvements. A bit of rustic elegance was incorporated into the interior including the center island, updated wooden beams, wall art, and the presentation of eye-catching items for sale near the seating area in the back of the store. Of course, the bakery goods, including the terrific pies, croissants, and cookies, are still a big draw. Many groups continue to this day to frequent the store from bike-riding clubs, to the Monterey Coffee Club and, of course, local residents and seasonal visitors from far and wide making it a destination and the heart and soul of our town.

He also recently informed the *Monterey News* that he is grateful to have been a part of the fabric of Monterey, and had come to value both the peaceful beauty of the town and the diversity of the store's patrons. He also pointed out that it is with bittersweet appreciation that he is moving from Monterey and onto a new venture in the Berkshires.

Scott is in the process of acquiring a twenty-acre Georgian estate comprised of orchards and a main house, which will be transformed into an inn for lodging and dining, and is located a little north and west in the town of Richmond. He is excited about this new opportunity to further expand his business savvy into the running of an inn with a touch of a general store experience. The orchards and land will be cultivated to enact the "farm to table" concept, just a few steps from his backyard, to be enjoyed by the visitors to his inn. Scott's inn, although unnamed at this point, is targeted to open next spring when the Berkshires are shedding their white winter mantle for the burgeoning green grass, blooming flowers, and bursting tree leaves.

Although Scott's last day at the Monterey General Store is December 31, in the spirit of the holiday season, he would like to extend his thanks and appreciation to all those who have frequented his establishment over the last five years. He also invites everyone to drop in to his inn next spring for a visit or even a stay.

Stay tuned for more news soon about the Monterey General Store.

—Dennis Lynch

There will be a box installed on the store porch for picking up copies of the *Monterey News* beginning in January.

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Monterey Veterans Day
World War I Armistice

Julio Rodriquez, chair of the Monterey Veterans Committee, invited me to join with other Monterey veterans for breakfast on November 11, at the Monterey General Store. He also asked if I would find and read a poem appropriate to the remembrance of the veterans who fought and died in WW1. We would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our country's entry into the war in the spring of 1917. (Armistice Day, now generally referred to as Veterans Day, initially was in remembrance of the armistice agreement signed to end hostilities between the Allies and the Germans on November 11, 1918.)

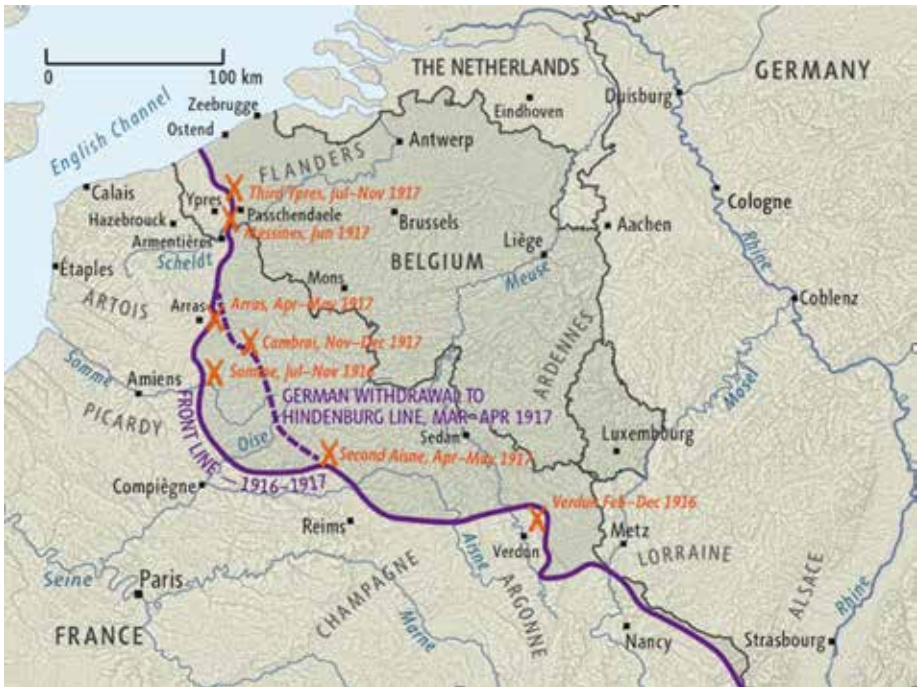
I agreed and found a poem entitled *In Flanders Fields*. But it struck me as odd that I really knew nothing about Flanders, and so reciting the poem would ring hollow for me and I'm sure for everyone listening. So, I dug a bit deeper and prepared an introduction to the reading, reprinted below, that was read on the front lawn of the Monterey Library on a very cold Saturday morning. Just about everyone in attendance knew as little as I did about Flanders, and it was suggested that I forward the reading to the *Monterey News* for inclusion in the next printing of the *News*.

It should not go without recognition and a whole-hearted thanks to Julio and the committee members of the council on aging for sponsoring and paying for the breakfast. A most generous and appreciated gesture.

—Larry Klein

Flanders

Flanders is a region in Belgium. The name derives from a medieval state that encompassed parts of what are now Belgium and northern France. However, the soldiers in the First World War would often refer to their service on the western front as "France," whether it was in France itself or Belgium. The principal town around which the fighting in Flanders revolved was Ypres, and the area around the town of Ypres was also known as the Salient. This region was fought over from October 1914 until practically the end of the war in November 1918. (From: ww1battlefields.co.uk/flanders.)



The Western Front 1916-1917

The name Flanders Fields is particularly associated with battles that took place in the Ypres Salient, including the Second Battle of Ypres and the Third Battle of Ypres, which commenced on July 31, 1917, and is often known as Passchendaele after the village that was finally reached in November 1917. For most of the war, the front line ran continuously from south of Zeebrugge on the Belgian coast, across Flanders into the centre of Northern France before moving eastwards—and it was known as the Western Front.

The phrase originates from a poem *In Flanders Fields,* by Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, inspired by his service during the Second Battle of Ypres. The fields were unmaintained for years before they were made into a memorial. Today, Flanders Fields is home to tens of thousands of poppies. (From: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flanders_Fields.)

The poppies flowering in the spring of 1915 on the battlefields of Belgium, France and Gallipoli, led to this vivid red flower becoming synonymous with the great loss of life in war.

Yet the scope of the poppy, and its connection with the memory of those who have died in war, has been expanded to help the living too. It was the inspiration and dedication of two women who promoted this same "Memorial Flower" as the means by which funds could be raised to support those in need of help, most especially servicemen and civilians suffering from the physical and mental hardships as a result of war. (From: greatwar.co.uk.)

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In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—John McCrae

Note: In the centenary remembrance of the beginning of World War I, from July to November 2014, 888,246 porcelain ceramic red poppies, one for every British and colonial solider who died during the war, were placed around the moat of the Tower of London. Millions of people viewed the installation. A quick search for "Red poppies at the Tower of London" will reveal moving photographs and accounts this event. —*Editor*

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After a breakfast for veterans in the general store, about thirty warmly-dressed folks attended this year's Veterans Day in front of the Monterey Library. Pastor Liz Goodman gave blessing and Larry Klein read "In Flanders Field," and provided an account from World War I.

Photos by Kay Purcell

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These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

From the Meetinghouse
December 2017

Time is strange during the month of Advent. These four weeks in advance of Christmas, Advent begins in our looking forward and moves into our looking back.

Ahead of us we anticipate a coming that is a completion of all that has been before, a perfection of this world still very much in the making so that all is peace and what was once purpose is now fulfilled. In these first couple weeks of Advent, also the first couple weeks of the church year, surprisingly, in worship, we hear Scripture about the end.

But then we turn and remember a coming that's already been, remember it, though, as if it's happening again, as if the surprise and wonder might take us up again. A baby. A baby!

A human being.

Being human seems both radical and a great challenge these days. With our politics so divisive, our imaginations colonized by ideology, our bodies commodified, and intimacy overshadowed by harassment and assault, simply being a human these days feels like an act of resistance.

So waiting for a baby to come that we might love him, that all other demands might be put in second place to the urgent task of loving and nurturing him, that he might teach us how to live (in loving and nurturing and cultivating life): this is the gift I await throughout the month of Advent.

A historic event confessed as the fulfillment of promise for the future, the end: it's hard to know which way to look during Advent, whether to the past in storied Bethlehem or to the future in eternal day, a time outside of time when all is finished and complete.

It's a season that always simply lands me in "now," the moment, this moment. How to live it as if the coming reign of love and peace were already reigning among us, were already holding us and filling us. How to live as if the most important thing were meeting the needs of a baby—vulnerable, demanding, clarifying, gratifying.

Live that now.

We'll remember and anticipate again this year, on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. We'll hear the story as of old and live hopefully into the new and discern for ourselves what time it is—what does this moment, this circumstance, demand of me, demand of us. We'll sing familiar, even beloved carols. We'll light candles and take in the countenance of each and all—familiar, even beloved faces, in that warm glow. We'll keep close in one another's humanity—soft, prickly, wise, bewildering, each and all.

Whether you ever find yourself in church otherwise, please consider finding yourself in church then. Sunday, December 24, at 7 p.m. All are welcome. You are welcome.

—Liz Goodman
Pastor, United Church of Christ

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Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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P.O. Box 9
Thank you Nick Fredsall

My wife and I have been homeowners in Monterey since 1986 and, hopefully, have been quiet and responsible neighbors. We write to thank Nick Fredsall for—literally—saving our home from possible substantial damage. Last Thursday, for a reason yet unknown to us, National Grid came to our home to remove the electric meter, presumably due to some meter malfunction. While there, the representative noticed some issue with the electrical hookup, and in removing the meter intentionally turned off the power to our house (without any prior notification to us), simply leaving a note. We are informed that the representative also called our house number, but by turning off the power the answering machine lost the message.

As we are predominantly second-home owners, residents for the summer months and thirty-plus weekends, we were not at home on Thursday, although we planned to arrive on Friday. Fortuitously, Scott Jenssen, who has worked on our home, came by to complete a project and informed us of the situation. I spoke with National Grid, which claimed to be powerless to do anything, despite my pointing out that there was no safety issue and that the temperatures would be freezing over the weekend (17 degrees when I arrived at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.) After speaking to a supervisor, the best I could obtain was the agreement that if the Monterey electrical inspector approved it, National Grid would arrange to reinstall a meter and have the power back on until appropriate work could be done this week. I called Scott, he called Mr. Fredsall, who I understand called National Grid, and we avoided burst pipes and potentially worse.

I could provide more detail, but the basics are that we are so appreciative to Mr. Fredsall for his intervention with National Grid. He was professional, reasonable, and responsive. I hope to say the following soon in person, but for now: Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Monterey is well served, and we wanted you to know of his support and responsiveness.

Sincerely,

—Joan and Terry Myers
29 Griswold Road

Here's a Thought
Stones and The Shepherd's Life

A few years ago, Pastor Liz Goodman had a very full plate and asked if I'd take over writing From the Meetinghouse for a while. I did, and you got used to seeing my words under that title. Now there's change afoot. She's back offering wisdom From the Meetinghouse, and I have a new title above my articles. We hope you celebrate both these changes with us!

Mary Kate Jordan

These sheep were grazing in a fenced-in field which also contains a World Heritage site, The Stones of Stennes. They seemed only slightly interested in the tourists, and not at all in the ancient stones.

The Stones of Stennes were raised on the largest of the Orkney Islands, off the tip of Scotland's north coast more than five thousand years ago. Historians suggest that they were part of a larger Neolithic ritual center, the first of three places where couples made their sacred promises to be true to each other. Their vows were often made during the five celebration days of the new year.

Archeologists say that sheep were grazing in Orkney that many years ago, too. The connection between Stennes and the New Year makes sense as a theme for this article as the turn of the calendar approaches. But why am I interested in sheep at this time of year?

Well, Pam Johnson lent me a book. It's James Rebanks' *The Shepherd's Life*, and I'm having a hard time putting it down. He writes with a simple, compelling authority, and a connection with the earth that I find irresistible.

What does a lifelong commitment to farming look like? To quote Rebanks, "There is no beginning, and there is no end. The sun rises, and falls, each day, and the seasons come and go. The days, months, and years alternate through sunshine, hail, rain, wind, snow, and frost…. The farms and the flocks endure, bigger than the life of a single person. We are each tiny parts of something enduring, something that feels solid, real, and true."

Mary Kate Jordan

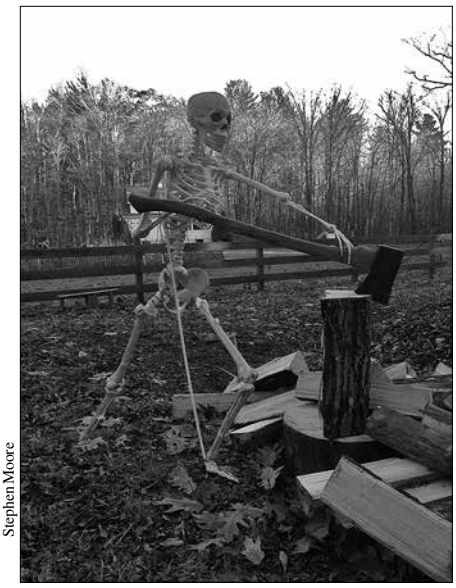
Some of the remaining Stones of Stennes standing in the Orkney Islands, Scotland

Why would anyone make that demanding choice? For one thing, farming's a sacred promise, one that reminds me of the vows couples used to say at Stennes. And Rebanks mentions in passing that his English family farms, and the Dales around them, have been farmland for more than five thousand years. That's about the same time those stones were raised north of the Scottish mainland, where I photographed those sheep a decade ago.

My friends Dick and Barbara Tryon are still my local lifelong-farm-folk icons, a couple who continue to live a life earthier, grittier, more fun, and more rewarding than any of us not gifted with such a commitment can imagine. If you don't have the opportunity to warm your bones in front of the blazing hearth in the Tryon dining room this winter, or even if you do, let yourself indulge in a different taste of real farm life at its best. Pick up a copy of *The Shepherd's Life* and settle in. As one of the reviewers says, "It's bloody marvelous."

Thanks, Pam.

—Mary Kate Jordan



Stephen Moore

Forester Tom Ryan, on Tyringham Road, has apparently, literally, worked himself to the bone splitting firewood. I'm sure we all wish him a warm and speedy recovery.

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Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us this month to hear:
Henry Bouchard

Manager and Fish Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service

See the community potluck supper article on page 9.

Wednesday, December 20
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
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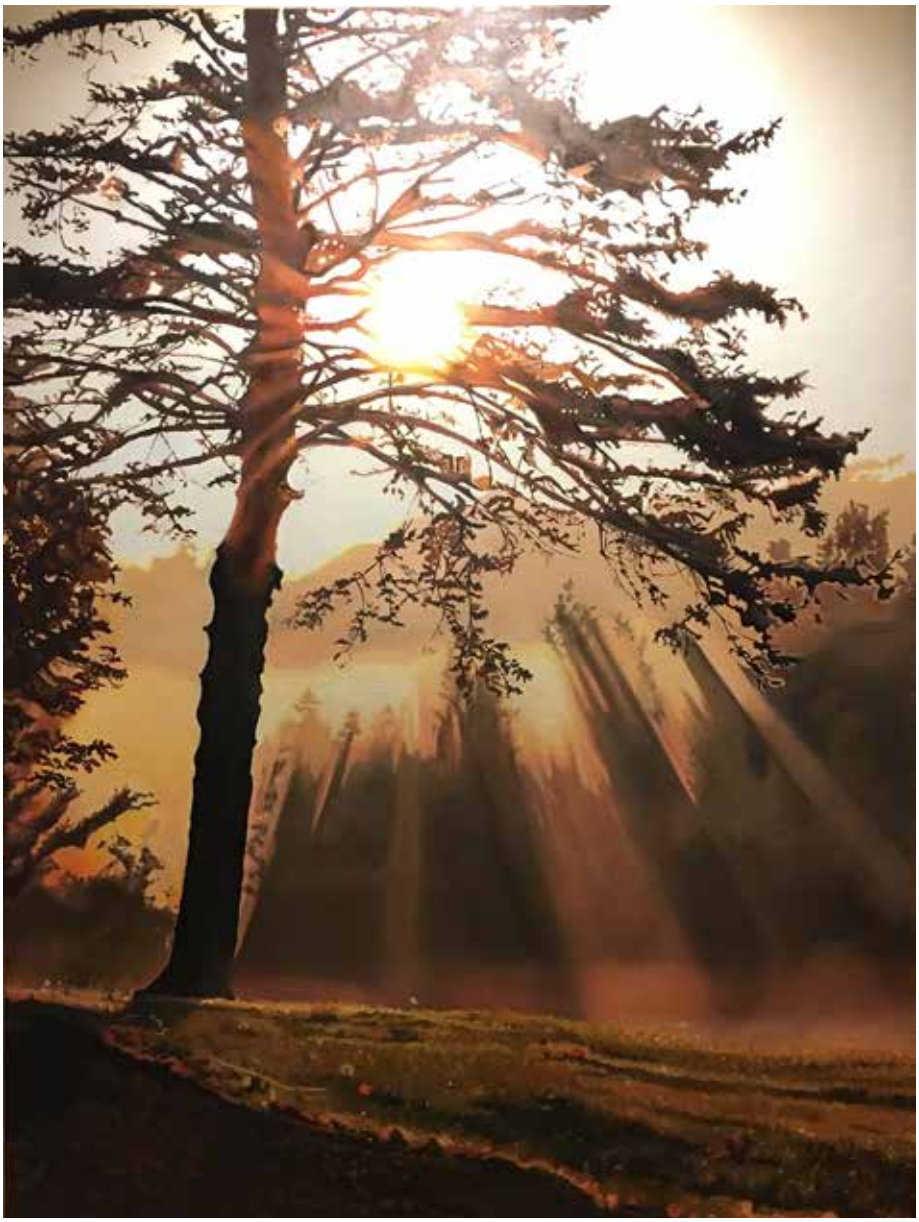

Michal Strawbridge is a studio artist, working with a variety of mediums including oils. Her paintings center around a theme of contrast, focus and light. She has been painting and selling works for over fifteen years, and recently moved to Monterey with her husband and three children.

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The Rainbow and the Cross

While passing through Monterey one day, I noticed, on the church in the center of town, two symbols that are at best out of place, and an affront to God.

True, the rainbow was a sign to man that God would not again destroy the world with a universal flood. God did not mean for the rainbow to be a symbol of what He hates—homosexuality. Not my words—if the church congregation would read in the *Bible* the *Book of Romans*—they would see that God hates that sin, and He also states that those that practice it are those who hate God. Not my words—read it.

Do we think we are more noble than God, that when God says come out from among them, He doesn't say bring them in? You talk of God's love, but you don't stress the fact that God's chief attribute is holiness.

A church has the command to preach the gospel. In light of what the *Bible* teaches the cross is very easy to understand. It is God's way of reconciling man to himself—the only way. If a person repents of their sin, and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, they will be saved. You cannot live in continued sin and be counted as a child of God. Read the third chapter of *John* and you will find that a person must be born again to enter God's heaven.

As for the immigrants and refugees matter. We, or our forefathers, were immigrants. However, these immigrants came in the lawful way and integrated into society. They did not come to change this society into the one they had left. Most fought hardship and sacrifice to get here and they didn't want a handout. They were not rapists and killers. They, most of them, wanted freedom of religion, not a mandate to submit or die.

If a church preached the gospel instead of trying to be an all-inclusive social club, we would see many more than a few stragglers on a Sunday morning.

Let's get back to the *Bible* folks. The end time is near and you don't want to be the one left behind.

—Mark Farnham
Tyringham

The Stag Moon's Time Piece

almost stopped, again
time drips from the ice stalactite
frozen to the roof
advent's darkness distilled
to a fine light-filled grappa
my trick? once again
chopping wood, carrying fire
honoring roots and the moon
in the stew pot
counting the cold snow prints
on the crystalline path
between Orion and Cassiopera
toward the Dipper.
tricks for sure!
more like coyote blessings
for the latest improvisations
on the theme of civilization
and democracy
someone said (back under the Melon moon):
"you can't stop time completely"
yet greed and corruption
cruelty and stupidity
keep marching on…
boot heels on the cobbled squares
piazzas and commons!
but reflecting along with
that big old Stag moon
on the "famous baby's"
mighty message of forgiveness
and the possibilities
of simple affection
can almost freeze time
in mid-air
illuminating a way to be

—Boney Oscar
December 2016

whee, whoopee you're three

hey runner
field runner, path runner, sky runner
quick as silver, quick as gold
quick to trick us
and prick the heart of anyone
who gets too close to that smile
all the while
applying dips and wipes
to your babies:
Goldilocks, Lavendula
Kitty and Paco
Brown Betty, Thumbelina
Froggy and Owl
hey big helper, good jobber
Mama's helper, Papa's helper
Nonno's good jobber, Ninni's helper
Mama's big helper
yelper
if you don't get your way
sway or foray into the forbidden
but hey, look see, looker
whee, whoopee you're three now
almost as big as me
not quite! shiner
just don't lose sight
of the right way
to hold the turnip tight
when you're pointing the way
like dear old Frey and lovely Freja
for the rest of us
caught in the fray
hip hip so very hip hooray!

—Boney Oscar
September 2017, for Jazz

A Pond: What's it for?
Who gets to say?

The hills in Mendocino County, California, are steep. Wake up in a valley on a chilly, wet morning and you can get warm just by taking a walk uphill. My walk took me up one side of the valley over Rancheria Creek, a place where once there was a summer camp for kids. Since then there has been a school there, and now a recent "ecovillage," that welcomes conferences and retreats in keeping with its principles of a way of life that goes easy on the land community.

There is a near neighbor's holdings, and a shared dirt road. On my walk I peeked over a fence around a sizeable pond belonging to the neighbor. Canoes were hauled up on the shore. There was a dock, and bright blue-green water.

Farther up the hill I came to another pond, on the ecovillage side of the road. This one was a more reassuring color, had a couple of ducks and varied vegetation. My walking pal, Cassie, was a big white dog whose job was to guard the alpacas, sheep, goats, geese, pigs, and maybe the chickens at the ecovillage. Probably she does a little of this in her spare time, but she also likes a morning walk. She got a drink at this second pond.

Later I talked with Sprite, who lives at the ecovillage. I was asking about the water for the place, and whether it came from uphill or downhill of the bright blue-green pond. "Oh, way up above there," said Sprite.

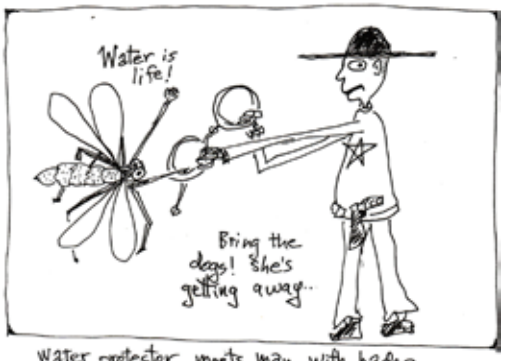
"So no copper sulfate in our tea, then," I said.

"The neighbors just want to keep out the weeds," Sprite explained. "We'll have to dredge our pond, soon. It is getting disgusting."

Pretty soon we were chewing it over, but Sprite's final word on the subject was this. "Well, it's not a natural pond. I mean it was dammed up, and we have to keep it clear of weeds for swimming. That's what it's for."

Ah, what is it for.

This is a question that can occupy the philosophers and landowners quite awhile as they get to the root issue of value. Around here we look at the plants in the lakes and hear about property value. Aesthetic value. Ecological value.



Water protector meets man with badge.

We look at the Otis State Forest in Sandisfield and hear about petroleum industry infrastructure, private property value, indigenous ceremonial prayers for harmony. Is there a way to measure harmony and line it up beside plain old capitalism? These are ideas we put into words, so we can talk and write, draft a constitution, and go to court or to jail. Out there in California in the Anderson Valley, that early morning, it was just me and a big white dog, plus every other living thing in and around the ponds and woods. There are California redwoods growing in their famous fairy rings around ancestral stumps, ravens and Steller's Jays in the oaks. Odd chestnuts of some kind hang on bare trees like so many wooden pears. The grass on the hillsides is brown, though Sprite grew up in California and calls this "gold."

The plants in the upper pond are green with chlorophyll making food for aquatic invertebrates. Fish live here, also ducks, frogs, turtles, salamanders. There are life cycles galore, every detail of sugars, gases, mud, sun and shade adding up to harmonies too wondrous for words.

Can we folks not swim here? The ducks, fish, salamanders, copepods, scuds, isopods, dragonfiles, amoebas, and rotifers don't have a problem with it, and they don't have the words. Their investments here are not those of a new non-profit outfit needing the women's yoga group to want to rent the place for the weekend. Some of these women may have an aesthetic value or preference born of happy swims in pools which are crystal clear on painted turquoise concrete, and not home to other creatures, with more legs than us, or with fins and gills and lateral lines. Homes even to creatures with feathers.

We folks with the words, with the habit of looking forward and backward as we stand in one place, we get to ponder. Let's put our backs into it and look to the indigenous people and values of harmony, beauty, and life. We are lucky there is so much for us to learn from each other, also from the dragonflies and the rotifers. Like Cassie the guard dog, we have a job to do. Every day we get the opportunity to be wise about choosing what that job is.

My job in California, that day I talked to Sprite, was to think about what a pond is for.

— Bonner McAllester

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Monterey Community Survey
The Health of Lake Garfield

This article summarizes quantitative outcomes of the Monterey Community Survey that was conducted over the summer by the Lake Garfiel Working Group (LGWG). A discussion of qualitative results, especially regarding how respondents defined "lake health" in their own words, will be the focus of an upcoming article.

Survey Design and Dissemination

The survey was designed by the LGWG, integrating feedback collected from fifteen town residents who attended an informational LGWG meeting on May 1. Printed surveys were available in the town hall foyer and electronic ones were available on the Lake Garfield webpage on the town website from May 8 to July 31. The survey was promoted through monthly LGWG articles in the *Monterey News* and was disseminated by LGWG members, including at the annual town meeting, at the fire company steak roast, and at a Friends of Lake Garfield meeting.

Participants

The LGWG is grateful to the fifty-nine people who completed the survey. Thank you all. According to 2015 census data, Monterey has a population of 872, meaning the survey was completed by approximately 7% of all community members. Thirty full-time and twenty-nine part-time residents completed the survey; twenty-four of these residents have deeded access to the lake and thirty-five do not. Those respondents with a right to vote in Monterey do so actively, exercising this right on average at 79% of town meetings.

Lake Use

There was a great deal of diversity on how the lake is used, reflecting a wide range of interests. 69% of respondents swim at the public beach; 69% are inspired by the natural beauty of the lake; 68% kayak, canoe and/or sail; 59% swim at private beaches; 41% use motor boats on the lake; and 34% fish.

Threats to Lake Health

98% of respondents believe that lake health is currently threatened. Only one respondent indicated otherwise. Potential threats were ranked on a scale of 0-4 (0 = not a threat, 1 = minimal threat, 2 = threat, 3 = significant threat, 4 = very significant threat). Survey respondents ranked eurasian milfoil at 3; chemical lawn fertilizer at 2.64; faulty septic systems at 2.41; climate change at 1.86; chemical herbicides at 1.69; and motor boats at 1.59.

Costs to Protect Lake Health

Of the fifty-nine people who completed the survey, forty-six responded to the question, "What do you consider a reasonable annual sum for management measures aimed at protecting the health of the Lake?" One respondent said $0; three said up to $12,500; thirteen said $12,501 to $25,000; eighteen said $25,001 to $50,000; six said $50,001 to $100,000; and five said $100,001 to $200,000. Taken as an overall average, respondents consider reasonable annual funding for lake health would be $46,467. (If those that skipped the question are assumed to be indicating that no money should be invested, the average would be $36,229.)

Respondents also indicated that, on average, 28% of these funds should come from a Lake Garfield Tax District, 22% from town taxpayers through voting on town meeting warrant articles, 18% from a new line item on the annual town budget, 13% from state grants, 8% from federal grants, 6% from personal donations, and 5% from other sources. When asked if they would like to donate to the LGWG for the purpose of protecting lake health, eleven respondents said they would give a total of $2,950. (Interestingly, this is almost exactly 6% of the average annual funds that respondents said should come from personal donations.)

Citizen Action for Protecting Lake Health

93% of respondents said that they will keep themselves informed about the work >

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Community Survey, cont.

of the LGWG through reading monthly *Monterey News* articles, visiting the Lake Garfield webpage on the town website, and/or attending monthly meetings. The *Monterey News* was checked by 49 respondents, the webpage by 35, and LGWG meetings by 24.

According to ownership of lake property, boat usage, and need, forty-one respondents said that they would replace their old or failing septic tanks, refrain from using chemical fertilizers on their lawns, and/or refrain from navigating boats or swimming through patches of milfoil (to reduce fragmentation and propagation). Further write-in commitments included using ecologically safe laundry detergents, dishwashing soaps, and snowmelt products, as well as cleaning septic tanks every two years. One respondent advocated for banning motorboats from the lake.

If the LGWG were to organize a public forum on the topic of lake health management strategies, over thirty-four of respondents said they would participate. Half as many would join a resulting "action team." Specifically, seventeen said they would volunteer to implement management strategies (such as milfoil hand-pulling), fourteen said they would help raise awareness about the importance of lake health, and three said they would help with grant writing.

Next Steps

As stated in the survey itself, "The LGWG wants its work to be embedded in and relevant to the interests and views of the larger Monterey community. This survey represents an effort to collect your inputs, as a community member, to help inform our work going forward." The LGWG will remain active through the winter, focusing on further articulated "lake health" based on this same survey, as well as continuing to shape lake health management strategies.

We encourage you to stay informed through our ongoing *Monterey News* articles and Lake Garfield webpage. As always, everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings. The next one is on Monday, December 11, at 7 p.m. in town hall.

—Michael Germain
Lake Garfield Working Group

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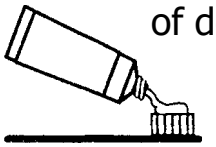
Dentist
All phases
of dentistry

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LGWG December Update

Next meeting December 11

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) held its last monthly meeting on November 13. The main topic of discussion was the results of the Monterey Community Survey on the health of Lake Garfield (please see related article on pages 19 and 20). The group also discussed the results of the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), which removed large amounts of eurasian milfoil over thirteen days in September and October. The cost was $22,000 and drew on the $50,000 allocated by town voters for this purpose. The working group also discussed plans to continue surveying milfoil in spring 2018, as well as a further round of DASH work in early summer. The LGWG considered what approvals may need to be secured from the conservation commission this winter to properly prepare for this work.

Last month, Dr. Kenneth Wagner presented preliminary results of his Lake Garfield water quality survey undertaken through a 604b grant. We expect his final report by the end of December. Plans will then be made to apply for mitigation of phosphorus and related weed growth with a 319 grant.

Dennis Lynch, participating as a town resident, mentioned a state grant to the town that is intended to support planning for climate change adaption. He pointed out that the LGWG is a good model for citizen action teams in Monterey and plans to organize a similar group for work within the climate change adaptation grant. (See "Climate Change…" on page 2.)

Next month's LGWG meeting is on Monday, December 11, at 7 p.m., in town hall. Everyone is welcome to join.

—Michael Germain
Lake Garfield Working Group

In My View
China and Monterey

China and Monterey, soul sisters, more alike than different. Really? We have recently returned from an unforgettable couple of weeks visiting highlights of east and central China. From the ancient Forbidden City in Beijing to the Great Wall, Xi'an's terra cotta warriors, Chongqing (thirty million plus people!), traveling on the Yangtze, more dazzling bridges than I'd ever imagined, through the Three Gorges Dam (talk about infrastructure), to optimistic Wuhan, and finally the cosmopolitan megalopolis Shanghai with many fascinating stops along the way.

The ancient sites, bustling, cheerful crowds, great humor, ambition and hospitality, colorful traditions, mouthwatering aromas, and pungent flavors. Strange as it may sound, reflecting on this wonderful experience, I realize the largest country in the world and one of the smallest towns in the commonwealth of Massachusetts have much in common.

How can this be? A progressive, democratic, capitalist village (us) and a massive, socialist market economy (them), are surprisingly alike. We are both blessed with abundant, desirable natural resources, and intelligent, friendly, industrious people. Both have evolved rapidly from primarily agrarian to industrial employment. Although there are many prospering, there is marked income inequality, great disparity between the urban-based wealthy and the rural poor. Both China and Monterey value strong family ties, but face the challenges of providing for seniors in a changing society.

What can we learn from our global neighbors on the other side of the world? President Xi Jinxing speaks about the Chinese Dream, and his modernization goals include further reduction and elimination of poverty, sustainable economic growth, preservation of traditional culture, and a cleaner environment. We can dream, too. My goals would be appropriate modernization, a well-off society where resources—health care, excellent education, decent housing, respect and social justice, safety in our homes and public places, access to technology—are available to all. This New Year's Eve, when I raise a glass, I will greet family, friends, and our future with a Chinese toast, "Gan Bei!"

Looking forward,

—Carol Edelman
Select board member

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Northwestern Connecticut Community College

In-state Tuition Rates

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) is now offering in-state tuition rates to residents of Massachusetts. This reflects a new policy announced by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU).

In the same amount of time it takes to drive to Pittsfield, residents of Monterey and other south county towns can now find an affordable alternative to Berkshire Community College. BCC charges $6,200 for MA students taking a full semester of fifteen credits. At NCCC, Massachusetts residents now qualify for in-state tuition of only $159 per credit-hour, or $2,138 per full-time semester (twelve or more credits).

Northwestern Connecticut Community College provides a strong liberal arts education, offering thirty-nine quality degree and certificates programs; small and affordable day, evening, and online classes; an accelerated nursing program; Connecticut's first veterinary technology program; American sign language and interpreter preparation programs; programs in the fields of criminal justice, allied health, early childhood education, business, computer science, and more.

NCCC's student body is made up of many first-time, first-generation college students and a substantial number of non-traditional students. It also has the advantage of providing a small-college feel. The full-time and part-time student population was 1,319 in the spring of 2017.

The college values its location in the heart of Winsted, adjacent to a beautiful town green at the intersection of routes 8 and 44.

For more information about Northwestern Connecticut Community College, visit nwcc.edu.

—Seth Kerhsner
NWCC Librarian

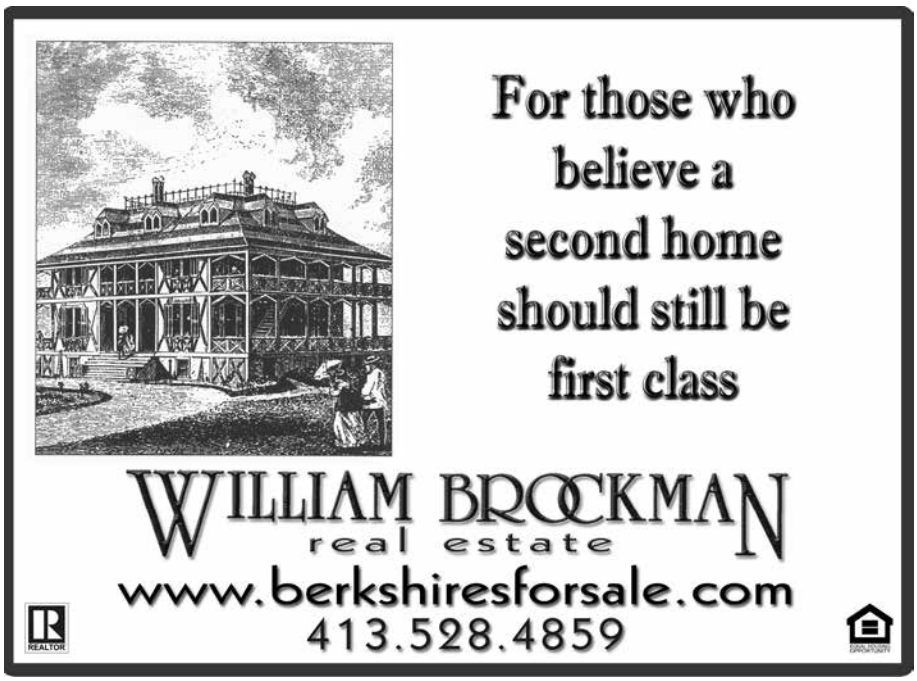
The Native Wild Turkey

A flock of wild turkeys crossing the road is a sight to behold that becomes even more exciting when they come into our own backyards under the bird feeders, as we often see them in Monterey. Often the macho behavior of a tom can be an impressive spectacle when it is gobbling to get attention, raising and spreading out a fan-shaped tail and blowing up face wattles as is struts around making a humming sound with wings antagonistically drooped and splayed out for competitive combat.

The frequency of sightings in urban areas is still rising after their numbers were so seriously depleted from overhunting by the beginning of the twentieth century. At that time, they were classified as big game by the eminent wildlife writer and illustrator Ernest Thompson Seton in his masterwork seven-volume reference encyclopedia entitled *Big Game Animals Of North America*. They also suffered from habitat loss due to the clearing of forest lands for agricultural uses and building lots. The rising population we are witnessing today is the result of many years of conservation and state stocking programs. The wild turkey population has come alive like the proverbial phoenix, rising up out of the ashes of their demise.

The natural history of the wild turkey in this neck of the woods can be traced back at least as far as the signing of the settlers' land purchase treaty in 1724 with Chief Konkapot and the Mohicans for most of the land in five southern Berkshire townships, including his favorite hunting ground, Monterey. The actual parchment document with his signature is in the archives section of the Stockbridge library. Chief Konkapot was illiterate and so he signed his name with his clan sign of the turkey track, clearly with front three toes and one opposing back toe. The Native American totem of the Turkey Clan is associated with the giving and abundant spirit of the Earth, as well as a symbol of generosity in sharing all the blessings of a bountiful harvest with those in need.

The earliest colonial history involving turkeys seems to surface at the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth in 1621, even though actual mention of turkeys is obscured in the accounts going back the nearly four hundred years. Turkeys are not documented in the account of some ninety Wampanoags bringing five deer to the feast along with a corn and clam dish called *nasaump* and a pumpkin and squash succotash called *pompion*. They natives had a history of similarly celebrating a bountiful autumn harvest, but probably earlier in the season, likely sometime after



Trickle or Treat:
The Current Tax Debate

"There are two ideas of government. There are those who believe that if you just legislate to make the well-to-do prosper, then prosperity will leak through on those below. The Democratic idea has been that if you legislate to make the masses prosper, their prosperity will find its way up and through every class that rests upon it."

The current tax package debate is not the source of this statement. Instead, we need go back well over a century when in 1896, before a rapturous gathering of Democrats at their national convention in Chicago, William Jennings Bryan delivered his memorable "Cross of Gold" speech.

It does remind us, however, of just how long we've argued over this issue. Bear in mind, Bryan was not here considering the merits of a tax cut for the corporate wealthy; a federal income tax would not be imposed until early in the next century. Rather, the Democratic nominee for president was thundering his opposition to decades of top-down largesse provided by Washington, designed for the benefit of the powerful and well-to-do. This was the age of the robber barons (Carnegie, Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Stanford, etc.), and while they skillfully and ruthlessly built their empires, employing innovations and outmaneuvering their rivals, they were also the beneficiaries of generous assistance from the federal government. Quite often it came as the result of a *quid pro quo* with government officials and influential politicians on the receiving end of sizable donations from the private sector.

Laissez-faire might have been the prevailing economic ethos, but on the ground one often discovered an obliging helping hand. Washington granted enormous tracts of land to the railroads that were laying tracks in every direction, one reason they overbuilt, overcharged, and often slid into bankruptcy. The government dispatched the army out west primarily to clear away the Indians (and see to it that they remained on reservations set aside for their confinement). Federal topographers mapped out western territories and directed miners and mining companies to precious metals deposits. A succession of tariffs on imports put money in the hands of domestic producers by keeping out foreign competitors or making their products more expensive. (Tariff revenues did, however, produce a surplus in the treasury, which was then, it should be noted, distributed as pensions to Civil War veterans.) Most critically, government leaders, both at the federal and state levels, proved ever willing to furnish troops or militia forces to quell labor unrest and break strikes—a contributing factor in the decline in workmen's wages throughout most of the period.

So, a "leak through" from the top worked hardly at all in this period (1865 – 1900), a time when fabulous wealth stood in marked contrast to widespread poverty. And indeed it was the rich and powerful that helped defeat William Jennings Bryan in 1896. Still, shortly thereafter, the United States would enter a remarkable period of Reform (1900–1960). Bryan's urgent message to America would not go unheeded.

—Richard Skolnik

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the first frosts of Indian summer, called the green corn ceremony. While there is no mention of turkeys at that gathering in 1621, it is known that colonists thereafter learned to domesticate them by placing their eggs in the nests of domestic fowl.

Much later, Benjamin Franklin failed to get Congress to adopt his favorite clean-living avian as the national bird because, when threatened with danger, it seems to lose its head and fly off in scatter-brained directions. This was considered a character flaw, even though we now know it is a successful strategy to avoid predators. Nevertheless, over time the domesticated turkey has risen as a national avian symbol. Norman Rockwell, in his *Four Freedoms* series, illustrated a Thanksgiving turkey dinner to portray *Freedom from Want*. There a golden brown roast turkey fresh out of the oven is placed on the table by an apron-clad grandmotherly matriarch, in front of the dignified tie-and-jacketed head of the table, and is appreciated by the smiles of more than one generation. It is an iconic work of Americana featuring this favored bird.

Just as the turkey was classified as big game by Seton, so too were white tail deer, black bear, moose, beaver, coyote, and mountain lions, all of which were depleted in numbers, but have nonetheless experienced revival in the southern Berkshires in the past century. And like the turkey, they are all symbolized in their own way with Indian totems. In Monterey, the writing and art work in the *News* brings us closer to the native spirit of the Earth, as nature greatly enriches the meaning and enjoyment of our daily lives.

—George B. Emmons

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Police Report
Mid-September to Mid-October

Safety on the Roads

A car "with no right front wheel connected" was found in front of the old fire station at the head of New Marlboro Road. The owner had already called an AAA wrecker which arrived an hour and forty minutes later. The officer directed traffic around the vehicle until the wrecker arrived.

Roadway Infractions

An expired Indiana license plate from November 2016. Vehicle towed and driver cited.

Speeding with a license suspended from both MA and NY. Driver charged.

An unregistered car from CT. Vehicle towed and driver charged.

A car with a smashed windshield. The driver didn't have a license. The owner, who was in the car, drove to a residence he was staying at on Blue Hill Road, and was told to leave the car there until the windshield was repaired. Both persons were charged.

A vehicle with a license plate light that was not working. It was discovered that the vehicle was also uninsured. Driver was charged and the vehicle towed.

An accident on Beartown Mountain Road resulted in the driver being charged.

Helping Hand

Keys locked in the car— a person at Gould Farm locked her keys and her dog in her car. Elsewhere a resident had started his vehicle and then locked it by mistake. Officers were able to open both cars.

Help was given on Blue Hill Road with storm debris in a driveway followed by a well-being check.

Dogs, Leashes, and Fencing

A party reported her dog missing and the front door to the house was open when she came home. Moments later a second call reported the dog had been locked in the guest room and everything was fine.

There was complaint of a loose dog going after a bicyclist on Elephant Rock Road. The officer spoke with the owner the next day and advised him of the town bylaw requiring dogs to be under the control of the owner at all times.

A dog broke off its leash along Pixley Road. The officer responding took down the dog's information in case it showed up elsewhere.

An officer responded to a report of broken livestock fencing and checked the area for loose cows. Fencing issue reported to owner.

Scams

A business owner filed a complaint regarding bounced checks. The party was charged, pending resolution of the matter.

A woman from Otis came to the station to report a phone call from the IRS demanding she wire money immediately. She was advised that it was a scam, and she should call the IRS directly to report it and inquire further.

Alarms

Folks—make sure that people working on or in your homes have the correct key codes for your alarms and know how to operate them. This month a cleaning service and a propane service person set off home alarms. And there was a midnight mouse in town hall who set off an alarm as well, but probably hadn't been given any code at all.

In a slightly different situation, Monterey police assisted New Marlborough police on Peter Menacker Drive with an alarm and deactivated security camera. Officers checked the house and the property. Shortly after, the son of the owner showed up apologizing for setting off the alarm. He had come to the house without the parents' permission. A call was placed to the parents to make sure he was allowed to be there.

The police and fire company responded to Preyer Fiske Way, for a carbon monoxide alarm and a resident experiencing a headache. On arrival all parties were out of the house. The fire company cleared the building and allowed parties back in.

There were several other alarms which, after conducting perimeter searches, were determined to be false.

Miscellaneous

Officer served a summons to party on Main Road.

An officer helped keep the peace at the general store while parties resolved a domestic situation.

Patricia Zucco

On Saturday, November 18, there was a gathering for folks to meet our new sergeant, Brian Fahey, above left, next to Chief Gareth Backhaus. To learn more about Sgt. Fahey, see page 2 of the November issue.

A resident on Blue Hill Road called the emergency number to the fire department. He was trying to advise the fire chief that his Knox Box (an emergency services access safe to hold keys, probably not named after General Knox, he of hauling cannons from Ticonderoga to Boston through our town during the Revolutionary War) was set up. The owner was advised on how to contact the fire chief with a non-emergency.

Compact Speech

Spare land and lean,
So briefly green
And so long white
In northern night,
You teach
In compact speech
The economy I mean.

Life on hard ground
Keeps people sound,
Love of bare trees
Tells what we do—
We who
Inhabit you—
For luxuries.

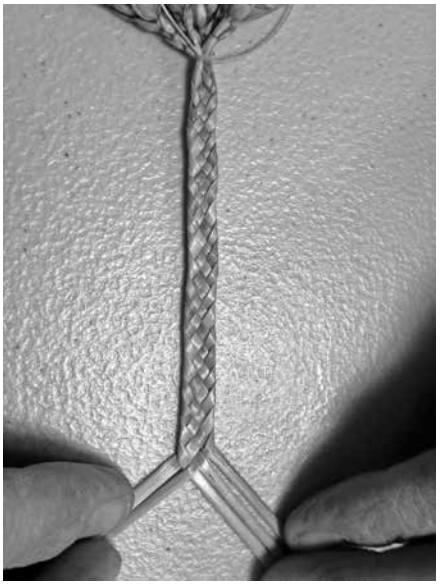
—James Hayford

Weaving Wheat Ornaments

Ten people signed up for the Monterey Community Center's first sponsored workshop, which took place on Sunday, November 19. The workshop was taught by basketmaker Wendy Jensen.

—Mary Makuc

Above left: Mary Adams, Jeanne Randorf, and Nadia Makuc. Above right: A braided heart. Below left: Five-strand plaiting with wheat stems. Below center: Cora and Joe Baker Right: Basketmaker Wendy Jensen with Lee Myers. *—Photos by Mary Makuc*



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Wildlife Report,
Mid-October to Mid-November

This has been a quiet month, here at wildlife central. From the turkeys to the bears to the 'possums, what we've been hearing is them keeping still. I refer to an old movie in which an elderly guide takes some children out to a misty place to see where the "little people" dance, meaning leprechauns. The kids are spooked but they want to see the leprechauns. The codger whispers,"Shhhh. Can you hear them?" The kids shake their heads, listening hard.

"That's them," the old man says, "keeping still."

This month it's the animals or the reporters or both who are keeping still, though Cora Baker did see a raccoon cross the road recently, and I both heard and saw two pileated woodpeckers about sunrise, carrying on in the woods behind me, in our local part of Beartown State Forest. Besides this, we had one clothes moth, *Tineola bisselliella*, hoping to move into our place, but we shooed her outside and hung all the woolens out there in the summer kitchen, too. These had all arrived here in a box from California, but we decided not to give them easy living in Monterey. My book says clothes moths don't do well at temperatures below 18° F.

Bonsai Cox

Whether still or moving, the nuthatch is usually head down going about its business.

The wildlife are keeping exceptionally still. If you stare very closely, you'll see that they are.

By this time last year the bears had retreated somewhere and folks were emboldened to fire up their bird feeders once again. Here we have been happy to see the first wave of the usual suspects: chickadees, titmice, white-breasted nuthatches.

Send me your reports, folks. Many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester 528-9385
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Kundalina Yoga
New Location

The focus this month is to release negativity and stress from the body through a sequence of postures. You will leave refreshed and better able to move through the demands and expectations of the season. December practice will move to my home at 9 Heron Pond Park (1.9 miles up Tyringham Road from the village, the next left after Art School Road). The kriyas (postures) will be to support and build the heart chakra area as well as to enjoy heart opening.

Mary Makuc has been enjoying the classes and commented that I work hard to put her students at ease and can work to modify poses for different abilities. I share my knowledge and skills to get the most out of the breathing, stretching, and relaxation period.

Why not come and try a class? Do something different that you may find beneficial for your overall health and wellbeing.

The classes will be on Mondays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost will remain the same at $10 per class or a package of four classes for the price of three ($30). Please call me at 203-249-8958 or email me at susancain9@gmail.com with any questions.

—Susan Cain

Contributors
October & November

The late fall through winter is the cash flow home stretch for the *Monterey News*. Each year we receive three hundred and fifty to four hundred contributions. Each month we distribute nine hundred to a thousand printed copies, and nearly two hundred electronic copies.

Thank you very much to the steadfast contributors who make this available to so many for free.

Dorothy and Bill Enlund
Mike Freudlich
Judith Friedman
Scott Jervas
Gillian Panchy
Seymour Zager
Maria Black
Greg Carnese
Robert Hudak
Jean Germain
Ian Jenkins
Louise Amstead
Ted & Diane Randolph
Robert & Luanne Treado

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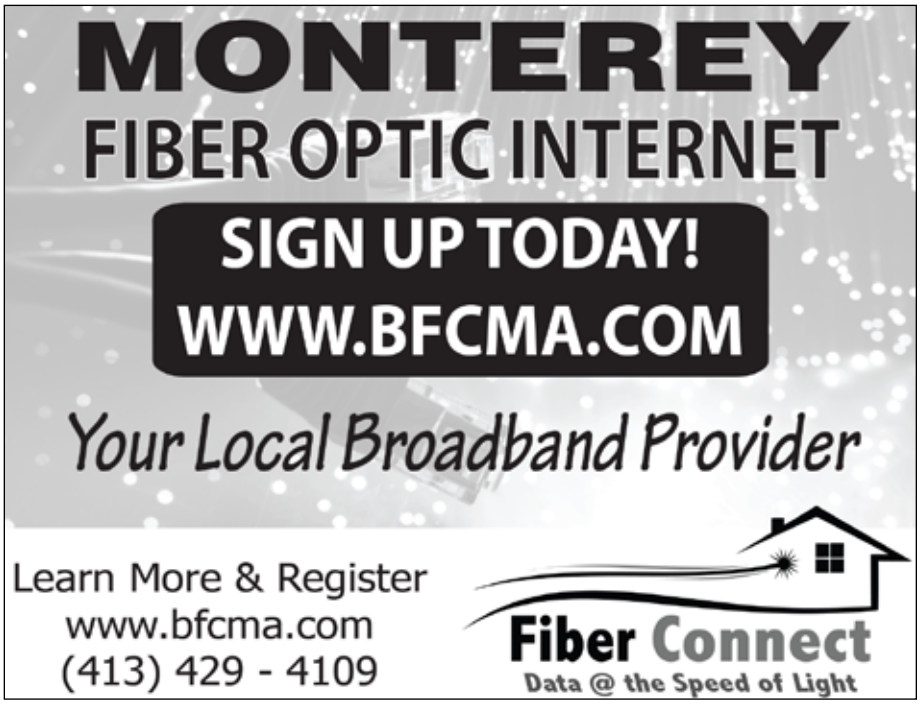

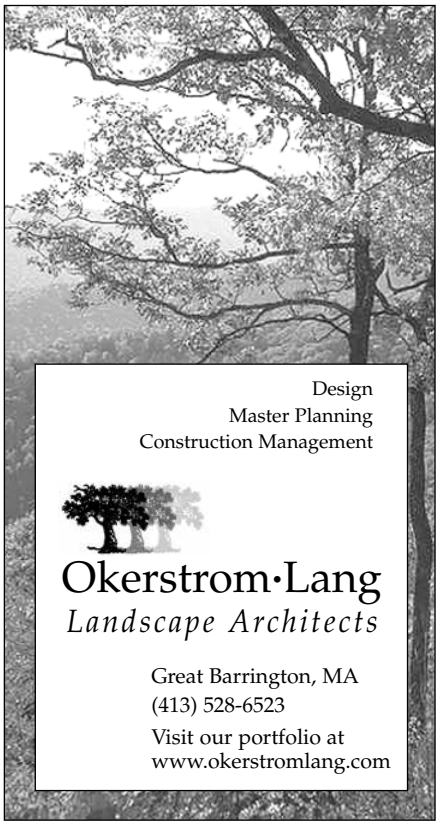

Town of Monterey
Winter Roads Policy

Winter Parking Ban
From November 1 through April 15, no person shall park or leave unattended a vehicle on any town road or town property that is required to be plowed by the town, with the exception of downtown, during business hours, where there are designated parking places. Vehicles parked in driveways must be far enough off the traveled way so as to not hinder plowing operations or be dangerous to the snowplows.

Vehicles found in violation of the above parking regulations may be towed at the owner's expense. If you are unable to make it to your destination you may temporarily park at the town hall or town beach. If you have a breakdown along the roadside, call the police or highway department ASAP to let them know that it is being taken care of.

Private Snow Plow Operators
No private individual shall plow/blow snow onto, across, or otherwise dispose of snow onto town roads. This is illegal and dangerous and violators can be ticketed by the Police.

Mail Box Policy
We do not deliberately knock over or damage mailboxes. Anything installed in the town's right-of-way (i.e. fence, mailbox, sign, etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. Residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the traveled way. Be aware the town of Monterey does not reimburse for mailboxes damaged during snow plowing operations. They should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secured properly and that wood posts are not rotted out.

Salt and Sand for Residents
Winter salt and sand for residential use only is available from a pile at the transfer station and is only available when the transfer station is open. Residents are asked to take only one five gallon pail at a time for personal use.

Winter Storm Operations
Paved Roads: Salt is usually applied as snowfall begins to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. Road temperature, air temperature, wind, snowfall rates, time of day, ice pellets, rain, freezing rain or sleet all affect the timing and amount of salt applications. On school days, bus routes are done before other roads as the buses start running by 6:30 a.m.

Gravel Roads: Gravel roads are plowed after the paved roads and our goal is to have no more that four to six inches accumulate on any unpaved road. Roads are sanded normally at the end of the snowfall, and sand is reapplied as needed.

Rain and Freezing Rain: Salt is spread on paved roads and town properties before rainfall when the road temperatures are below or near freezing to prevent roads from icing up. Salt is reapplied as needed to prevent freeze up.

On unpaved roads, sand is applied when possible. During a rain storm with road temperatures below freezing, unpaved roads freeze instantly, and sand that is applied is quickly frozen over. During a long rain event, we try to sand the gravel roads three to four times a day to allow some travel, but remember, they will freeze up on you rather quickly. We cannot keep them passable all the time.

Please keep in mind that each storm is unique and requires its own approach to managing the roads. The intensity of the storm may dictate the amount of time the highway crew is safely and effectively able to work.

The highway department does our best to plow and sand the roads in a timely manner, but please keep in mind that we are limited in how fast we can go (10-15 mph) and how much help we have (four trucks/workers) for fifty miles of road. After a storm has stopped it takes us, on average, four to five hours to complete clean up.

Helpful Suggestions
- Use common sense—don't go out during a snow/ice storm if you don't have to. The less people on the road, the less accidents and the easier for us to clean them.
- Slow down—reduce your speed and drive cautiously. Just because you own a 4x4 or all-wheel-drive vehicle does not mean you are invincible (4X4s and AWDs have the same stopping issues). Everyone should cut their speed in half during a storm.
- Put snow tires on your vehicle—all-season radials are not enough.
- Don't leave your vehicle on the traveled way.
- Listen to the weather forecasts and pay attention to changing conditions.

Snow issues or concerns should be reported to the Monterey Police Department by calling 528-3211, or the Monterey Highway Department (if appropriate) at 528-1734 or both.

—Monterey Select Board

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Penalty for Keeping Christmas–1659

A Historical War on Christmas

Linda Thorpe came across this a while ago and thought that readers might find it interesting.

The text to the right reads (with modern spelling):

"For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries, to the great dishonor of God and offense of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or any other way, upon such accounts as aforesaid, every such person so offending shall pay for every such offense five shillings, as a fine to the country."

The early Puritans in Massachusetts regarded Christmas as a "false" celebration of the birth of Jesus, with stronger ties to paganism than to Christianity. They also disapproved of the drinking and partying associated with the holiday.

Thus, in 1659, the Massachusetts Bay Colony legislature passed a ban on the celebration of Christmas.

The ban was not repealed until 1681, when a new surge of European immigrants brought with them a demand for the holiday. Still, the holiday was not universally embraced. In 1856, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote in his journal:

"We are in a transition state about Christmas here in New England. The old Puritan feeling prevents it from being a cheerful hearty holiday; though every year makes it more so."

It was not until April 15, 1856 that the Massachusetts legislature made Christmas an official holiday in the state. On June 28, 1870, the U.S. Congress, apparently prompted by a memorial drafted by local "bankers and business men," made Christmas a national holiday.

From legallegacy.wordpress.com

Penalty for keeping Christmas.

For ꝑventing disorders arising in seuerall places.w^th^in this jurisdicc͡on, by reason of some still observing such ffestiualls as were superstitiously kept in other countrys, to the great dishonnor of God & offence of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoeuer shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labour, feasting, or any other way, vpon any such accounts as aforesajd, euery such person so offending shall pay for euery such offence fiue shillings, as a fine to the county.

From: *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Printed by order of the Legislature, edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., Vol. IV, Part I, 1650-1660*

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Dec. 8, 2017 - Jan.13, 2018

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, December 4 and 18, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, from 9 to 10 a.m., at the community center.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, December 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Monday, December 11, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, December 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, December 14 and 28, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, at 9 a.m., and December 27, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

The Administrative Assistant's Office will be closed to attend offsite training on December 5.

Town hall will be closed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13; and all day Mondays, December 25 and January 1.

Other News

Town hall has seen some significant improvements in the past few months. While you might notice our new parking lot, which has been expertly enlarged and repaved, what goes on inside town hall has improved, too.

As we approach the end of 2017, every department in your town is running smoothly, efficiently, and getting the business of Monterey accomplished.

To a great degree, the credit lies with the very public faces of Monterey, our capable employees. Most visible on an almost daily basis are Terry Walker, town clerk for over a year, and Melissa Noe, administrative assistant for thirteen years. Experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated, we are fortunate to have such professional staffing. Out on the roads, you will see Shawn Tryon, Director of Operations, and his able assistants keeping ahead of the next storm, project, or breakdown. Traveling those same roads, you may encounter Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, our new Sergeant Brian Fahey, or one of the part-time officers. They take their roles seriously as officers of the peace, and help keep us safe, often working behind the scenes to support residents in need of assistance. Our building commissioner, library director and staff, tax collector, assessors, transfer station attendants, and other town employees and volunteers too numerous to mention all take seriously their commitments to serve.

Peace in town hall. We have made great progress in the past year, and Monterey continues to be one of the best towns in the Berkshires. Now let's hope for peace on earth.

—Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

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Calendar

Every Tuesday:
Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., community center. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.
Cards and Games, 12:30 p.m., community center. Sponsored by the council on aging.
Every Friday: Matter of Balance program, 1 p.m., call to register.
Thursday, December 7:
Town Yarners, 1 p.m., community center. See page 9.
Dancercize, 4 p.m., community center. See page 9.
Friday, December 8: Knox Gallery opening reception for *Eclipsed*, the winter community exhibition. See page 8.
Saturday, December 9: Easy Ridin' Papas concert, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural council. 7 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 7.
Monday, December 11: Lake Garfield Working Group meeting, 7 p.m., in town hall. See page 20.
Thursday, December 14: Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.
Saturday, December 16: Lenox Contra Dance, holiday potluck dance. Early dance session 5 to 7 p.m., potluck, evening dance 8 to 11 p.m. Music by Russet Trio with calling by Dugan Murphy. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street, Lenox, MA. LenoxContraDance.org. Call 528-4007 for information.
Wednesday, December 20: Community potluck supper with Henry Bouchard from US Fish and Wildlife service. 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 9.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve church service, United Church of Christ, Monterey, at 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 28: A talk to benefit relief efforts in the US Virgin Islands, by Aldeth Lewin. 6:30 p.m., Monterey Church sanctuary. See page 10.

Later On

Thursday, January 11: Foot nurse, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.
Knox Gallery: January 19 through March 3, *Intersections*, by Leslee Cardeswell.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
chief@montereyma.gov
Highway Department.: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Below: Cut out these contacts and place in an accessible location.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is

  dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number

  413-236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call

  528-3211.

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Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 21; Chris Carnese, p. 20;
George Emmons, p. 22; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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